

THE GREEN BOOK

BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

PART 1

The solution of the
problem of Democracy

PART 2

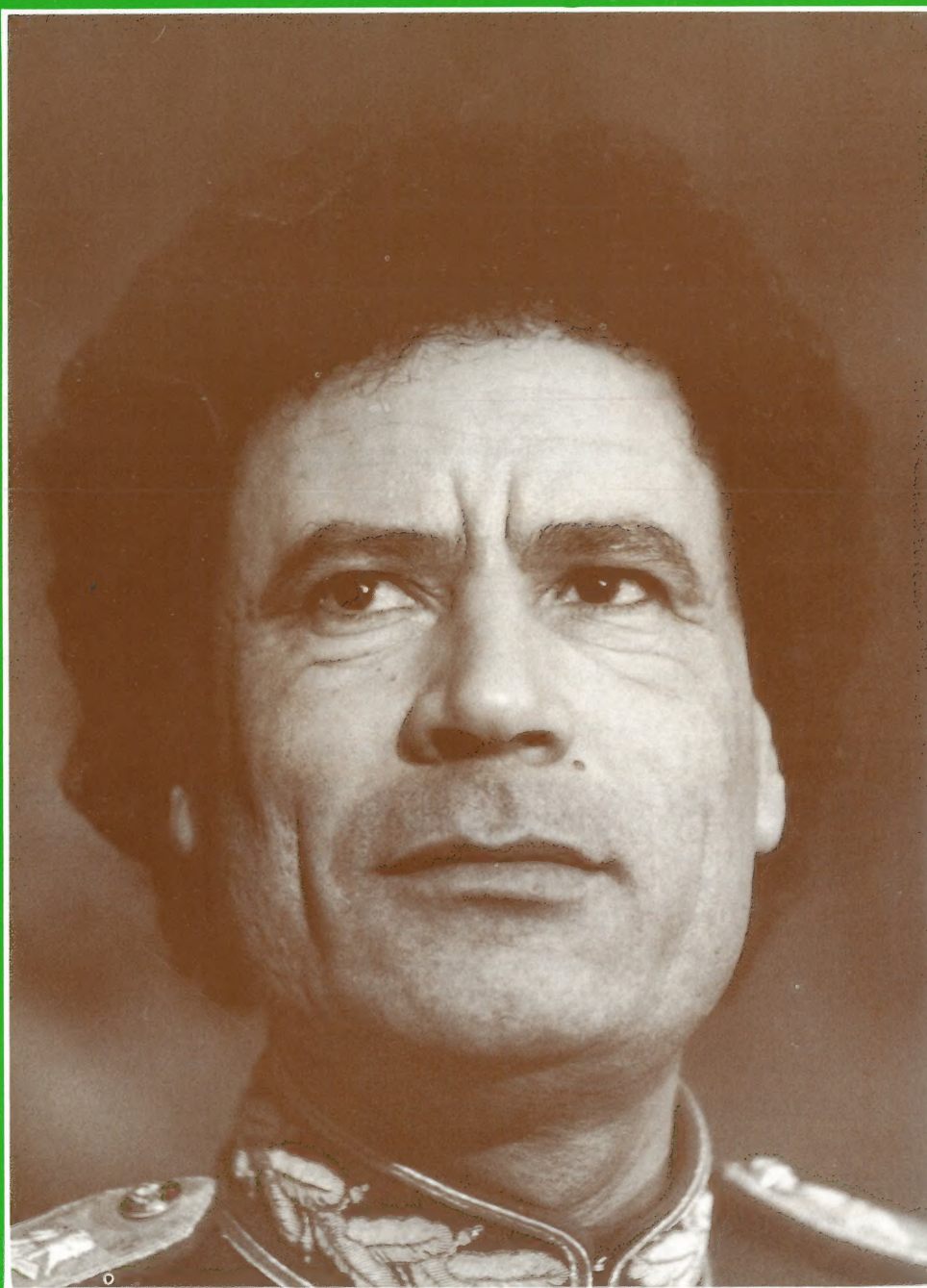
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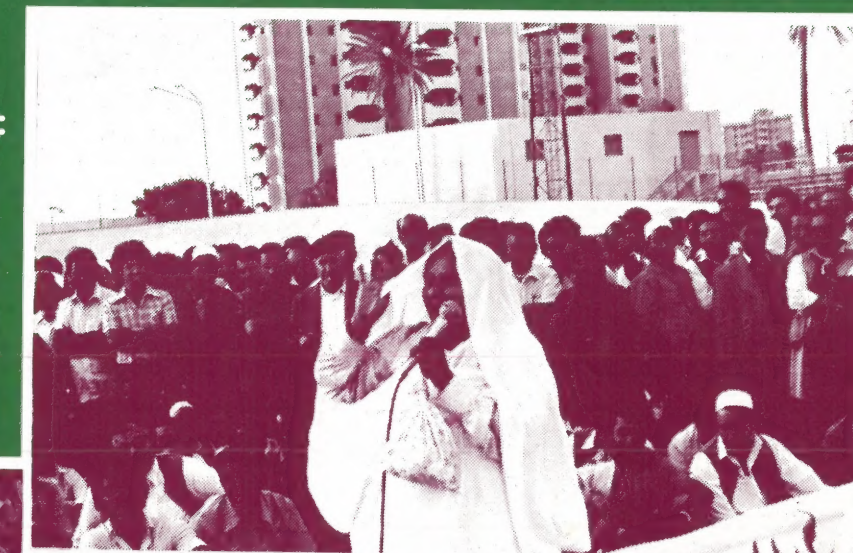
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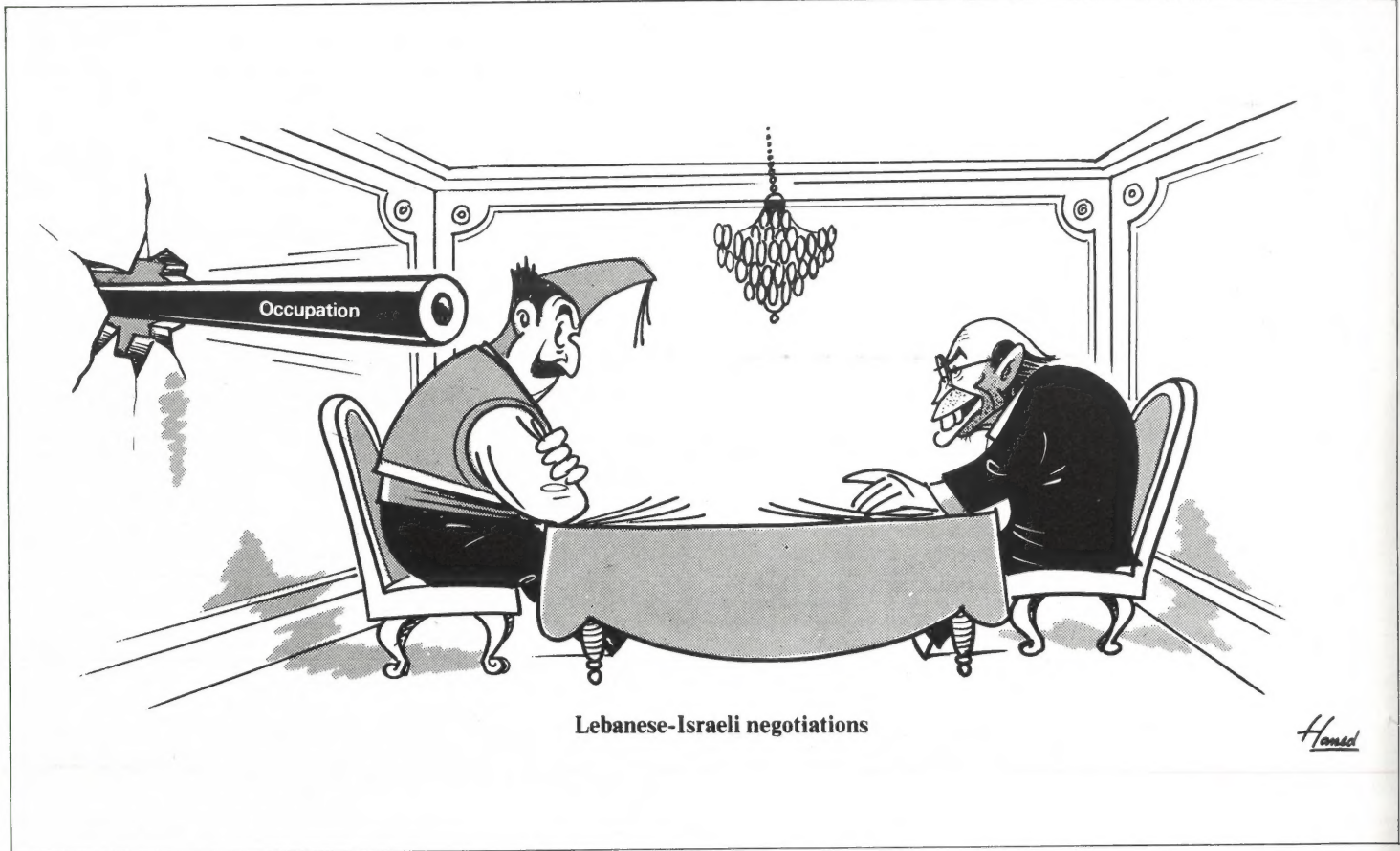
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jamahiriya review

No 33 February 1983

LIBYA'S DEMOCRACY: Throughout the Jamahiriya, men and women, young and old, have spent recent weeks in vigorous debate. The occasion is the current meetings of the Basic People's Congresses which debate the agenda of the General People's Congresses, and determine the policies and priorities of the country for the next year. In a specially extended report starting on page 9, Louis Eaks examines some of the issues which have been under discussion, and reports on the comments made by the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi. Alex Mitchell has been in Tripoli, and provides an insight into the atmosphere generated in the Libyan capital.

ECONOMIC WAR: One year ago the Reagan administration imposed a series of economic sanctions on the Jamahiriya as a further attempt to destabilise Libya's economy. On page 14, Robert Miller reports on how the scheme has cost American firms dearly, while having a minimal impact on the Libyan people.

MASSACRE: This month marks the tenth anniversary of one of Zionism's greatest crimes — the shooting down of a Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing over Sinai, in which 107 innocent civilians were killed. Ali Aziz recalls the incident on page 12, and examines the international response.

MEDIA PROFILE: The Jamahiriya News Agency, JANA, is the largest Arab news agency in London. Louis Eaks visited their offices off Fleet Street and spoke to the Bureau's chief Saleh Najem. His report appears on page 16.

BOOKS: On page 17, Dr Alan George reviews a new book which spells out the objectives of Zionism in the Arab homeland, and warns that last summer's invasion of the Lebanon must be viewed within the context of the long-term strategy to subject the Arab nation to Israeli domination.

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An alternative view of Middle East events

THE EUPHORIA which has surrounded President Reagan's peace proposals for the Palestine conflict, especially amongst Arab rulers, has created a highly distorted view of the situation which now exists following Israel's invasion of the Lebanon last June. After all, the Washington perspective recognised the illegality of the Zionist occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but there is no evidence that Mr Reagan is prepared to come to terms with Zionist intransigence. Both the present Beigin regime and previous Israeli Labour administrations have declared their rejection of any settlement proposal which requires a full withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. Recent weeks have confirmed that it will be a long time before Israeli forces leave Lebanon. Now the harsh facts of the Lebanon's occupation are beginning to dawn on most observers of the situation.

Moreover, the Reagan plan is more of a scheme to block the Palestine Liberation Organisation from assuming its proper role as representative of the Palestinian people (both those in exile as refugees and those enduring the experience of military rule in occupied Palestine).

If Arab regimes are being panicked into accepting the Washington plan, this is largely the consequence of their own refusal over several decades to face seriously the military challenge of the Zionists. Beigin's rapid settlement programme may be an expression of his regime's commitment to maintain a permanent hold over the West Bank, but it cannot change the illegality of his actions, nor the legitimacy of the national rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination in an independent sovereign state. By allowing themselves to be press-ganged into accepting some compromises hotch-potch created in the State Department in Washington, certain Arab rulers and leaders are simply avoiding coming to terms with reality.

Washington believes that its relations with the Arab nation are threatened by progressive forces such as the Libyan Jamahiriya. In fact, if the United States were to be honest, it would

recognise that its interests are really threatened by continued support for the Zionists, and Washington's refusal to come to terms with the Palestine question.

It does not need Arab progressives to destroy the Reagan plan, because the American scheme foundered from its conception on the solid intransigence of Israel. Nevertheless, it is the task of Arab progressives to formulate a practical and realistic strategy to deal with the problem.

It has suited the West to claim that Arab moderation has left the Jamahiriya isolated from Arab consensus. At the time of the Lebanon invasion only Libya called for a united military response from the Arab nation. This call was thwarted because other Arab regimes refused, some in the clear hope that the Palestinians could be battered into submission. Yet today, whatever may be planned in Amman, two points are perfectly clear. The first is that the Palestinians are not prepared to sell their birthright to cast Mr Reagan as peacemaker, and secondly, the diplomatic offensive carries no weight in Zionist circles.

The Fez Summit (whose proposals were rejected by Washington and at best ignored by Western Europe) and the Reagan plan may have dominated the debate in the aftermath of the Lebanon war, but it is now clear that both have run their time. The meeting in Tripoli during January of leaders of the various Palestinian resistance groups, and Muammer Qadhafi's call for a meeting of the Steadfastness Front, point to a new emphasis emerging in the Arab homeland.

In recent weeks, Qadhafi has warned that Israel will next attempt to take on Syria as it has Egypt and Lebanon. The defence of the Arab nation demands that the military option, a commitment to armed resistance, prevails. There is no other course open when the Zionists consistently impose their influence and power through the strength of their armed forces. So long as Washington provides the Zionists with their arms, the United States has no role as peacemaker.

Muammer Qadhafi: The democrat

LIVELY AND heated discussions, and high attendances, have characterised the latest round of meetings by Libya's Basic People's Congresses. These are the forums in which all of the Jamahiriya's citizens are entitled to participate in formulating the country's policies. Popular committees which supervise local administration and the Secretariats (which replaced the old ministries) have faced fierce criticism, and some changes may be called for. Development schemes are under scrutiny, and the Jamahiriya's foreign relations have been reviewed. The events of recent weeks, since the Basic People's Congresses began their sessions to prepare for the General People's Congress in Tripoli, have shown the strength of people's democracy in Libya.

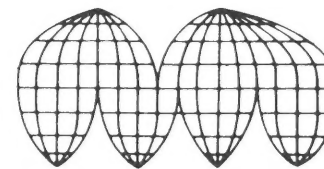
Open debate has been encouraged by Libya's revolutionary leader, Muammer Qadhafi, who has appeared on television to argue that no one should be deterred from speaking his or her mind simply because they fear they might hold a minority view. His message, to those who are reluctant to come forward and speak, has been one of encouragement.

He has stressed that if they feel strongly about an issue then the BPCs offer the opportunity for them to convince their fellow citizens and influence the policy decisions which emerge from genuine debate.

In the past, popular feeling has swept away inefficient members of the country's administration, and the opportunity is always there. The very basis of the system is to ensure that every citizen has a positive and equal role in deciding what course the country should take on all issues from defence to planning, and from foreign relations to health and welfare.

Although the meetings of the Basic People's Congresses have been in progress for several weeks, and regular reports distributed internationally through the Jamahiriya News Agency, none of the western press which so frequently maligns Libya gave any attention to the country's young and flourishing democracy. This is not surprising, because it would challenge the false image of the Jamahiriya which they prefer to project.

A monthly review of Libyan, Islamic and Third World affairs



PANORAMA
news review



New Year call for action on world inequalities

A CALL for world leaders to ponder and act on, the glaring inequalities in the international system has come in a New Year's message from revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi. Contrasting the emptiness of the standard new year's greetings exchanged by world leaders with those politicians' generally destructive policies, the Libyan leader suggested that it would be more appropriate for them to ponder the central message of compassion and mutual assistance advanced by all three of the great monotheistic religions.

The big powers were spending vast sums on nuclear weapons, the development of inter-continental missiles, the conquest of space, propaganda campaigns and psychological warfare, Muammer Qadhafi continued, at a time when the world was suffering from disease, famine, malnutrition and spiralling prices.

He recalled Jesus Christ's rebuke of religious men for their greed and neglect of the service of God, and of the clerics and theologians for sub-

stituting the message of God with their own traditions, and declared that at this juncture in history, 'We should realise that we are far from the teachings of Christ, and closer to those of Satan.'

Steadfastness Front moves signal new initiative

WITH THE growing awareness that the Fez summit peace formula and the Reagan plan are foundering on Israel's refusal to make even minor concessions on the future of the West Bank, the Libyan Jamahiriya has called for a meeting of the Steadfastness Front to chart future Arab strategy. Libya was conspicuous in its rejection of the Saudi scheme adopted at the Fez Arab summit following the Lebanon War. Under political and finance pressures from the Fahd regime many of the Steadfastness Front countries attended Fez and approved the Saudi plan. However, time has now placed the initiative back in the hands of Libya and other Arab progressives, who believe that the clear failure of the Saudi scheme to

make any concrete progress, and the cool response which it received from the Saudi's western allies, make it an opportune time for an alternative Arab strategy to be established.

Disclosing that Muammer Qadhafi had sent telegrams to the leaders of the Front members, inviting them to convene a summit in Tripoli 'as soon as possible', the Jamahiriya news agency JANA added on 17th December that invitations had also been sent to 'opposition and popular movements' in the Arab homeland, to 'leaders of Palestine Resistance detachments' and to the 'Lebanese nationalist movement'.

As part of the Libyan initiative, Staff Major Abdel Salam Jalloud arrived in Damascus on 21st December to deliver an important letter from the Libyan leader to Syrian President Hafez al Assad.

The call for a Steadfastness summit has been well received. On 5th January JANA announced that positive replies to Colonel Qadhafi's invitation had come from Syria and Democratic Yemen. The same day, JANA disclosed that following a meeting with Major Jalloud, Mr Abdul Rahim Murad, leader of the Arab Socialist Union in Lebanon had expressed his party's strong backing for the Jamahiriya's summit initiative. Earlier, on 29th

December, the Libyan agency announced that the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, one of the resistance groups linked in the PLO, had also welcomed the summit call.

Aid for Yemen earthquake victims

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has joined in a major international relief operation mounted after a severe earthquake devastated large areas of the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen), killing more than 3,000 people and destroying the homes of 400,000. The earthquake, measuring 6 on the Richter scale, struck the mountainous Dhamar province on 13th December. Twenty-two villages were completely demolished, and another 196 were between thirty and seventy per cent destroyed.

North Yemen is noted for its distinctive multi-storey buildings of stone and brick, and many of the casualties resulted from the collapse of such structures. In the village of Dawran Anis, 150 children died when their homes collapsed, and eighty worshippers were killed when their mosque was demolished. ►



Israeli gravel quarry for road building in Lebanon: a prelude to long-term Zionist domination?

► The first shipment of relief supplies from the Jamahiriya left Tripoli on 15th December, accompanied by a medical team comprising twenty doctors and nurses.

The Libyan aid effort was personally supervised by Mr Ibrahim al Faqi Hassan, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Social Security, and on 22nd December he held talks in the Yemen capital Sana'a with Premier Abdelkarim Alaryani, who expressed his country's appreciation for the Jamahiriya's assistance. The following day, Mr al Faqi Hassan reviewed bilateral relations with Yemen's Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Lutfi Althane.

The Libyan Jamahiriya consistently responds promptly and generously to alleviate the impact of natural disasters. In the past three years alone, Libya has taken part in the relief operations mounted after earthquakes in Algeria and Italy, and flooding in Democratic Yemen and Tunisia.

Arab youth 'must shake off apathy'

YOUNG PEOPLE in the Arab homeland must step up their contribution to the pan-Arab liberation struggle, pursuing policies wedded to principles rather than to Arab governments. That was the key message of Major Abdesalam Jalloud in his inaugural address on 11th December to the emergency session of the Central Council of the Arab Youth Union and the General Union of Arab Students (GUAS), convened at Tripoli's Al Fateh University. The session was attended by a large number of Arab students groups, as well as by a delegation

representing the International Student Federation.

Berating the young for their apathy, Major Jalloud declared that much of the Arab's impotence in the face of Israeli and US aggressions could be traced back to the failure of young people to commit themselves wholeheartedly to the liberation struggle. Apathy amongst young people played into the hands of the Arab nation's enemies.

Young people could play an effective role, however, only if they shed their subservience to Arab governments. Some of the regimes were manifestly insincere in their protestations of support for the Arab cause, said Major Jalloud, while others may be sincere but were forced by circumstances to restrict the scope of practical action. Linking youth organisations with governments was therefore a mistake, since to do so could entail serious constraints on their freedom of action.

Major Jalloud urged his audience to follow the lead of young people in the Jamahiriya. 1,200,000 Libyans were of school age, he noted, and all schools and educational institutions acted as military bases, where students trained in the use of a full range of weaponry. The Libyan people, he added, were committed to a programme of comprehensive mobilisation, which offered the only credible answer to the Zionist war machine.

Responding to Major Jalloud's call, the Central Council of the Arab Youth Union and GUAS ended its meeting by agreeing a series of measures aimed at bolstering the contribution of young people to the pan-Arab struggle. It was resolved to launch an appeal to all Arab and other students to boycott US goods, and it was decided to issue regular information bulletins arguing the Arab case, and to organise exhibitions highlighting Zionist atrocities. The Council also agreed to step up efforts

to secure military training for the Arab people, to work for the opening of all Arab fronts to the Palestinian armed struggle, and to set up voluntary work programmes for Arab students. The Council also resolved to give full assistance to students whose studies were disrupted by the Lebanon invasion, and to those who had been exiled by the Zionists from occupied Arab lands.

Warning on Zionist-Lebanese talks

THE TALKS under way between Zionist and Lebanese officials pose a grave threat to the independence of Lebanon and the wider Arab region, since the key objective of Israel and its backers in Washington is to use any resultant agreement to neutralise Lebanon, in the same way as Sadat's Egypt following the Camp David accords. This was the blunt warning by the Political Editor of the Jamahiriya news agency JANA, in a special commentary on 5th January.

The Zionists, he noted, were clearly intent on using their military superiority to impose a capitulationist 'peace treaty' on Lebanon, and in this blackmail they had the backing of the United States. Lebanon, he added, 'cannot but emerge empty-handed from these negotiations'.

The JANA Political Editor traced the current situation back to the US-sponsored Camp David accords, which took Egypt out of the pan-Arab confrontation with the Zionist state. The accords had 'opened the gate' for further efforts by Israel and America aimed at dividing the Arab people, and picking them off country by country.

The conclusion of a treaty between Israel and Lebanon would merely be a prelude to long-term Zionist domination of Lebanon, the Political Editor warned. Faced with such a threat, the Lebanese people should do their utmost to foil the Israeli-US plan, which was designed to 'rob them of their Arab identity, freedom and dignity,' he concluded.

Green Book's message studied

A FIFTY-member Libyan delegation arrived in the Ghanaian capital Accra on 25th December to attend a three-day international seminar on Muammer Qadhafi's *Green Book*, which sets out the guiding principles of the Al Fateh Revolution. Headed by Mr Muhammad Adil, Secretary General of Tripoli's International Green Book Studies Centre, the mission was welcomed to Ghana by Mr Wo Adjei Buadi, a member of the Provisional National Defence Council. The seminar opened on 27th December at the Ghanaian capital's Kwame conference centre.

Talks with France signal rapprochement

THE FRANCO-Libyan joint commission is due to meet in Paris at the beginning of March, signalling the recent rapprochement between Tripoli and Paris following a period of unstable relations stemming from French interference in African affairs.

The significance of the meeting, only the third since the commission was established in 1976, was encapsulated by a French Foreign Ministry official, quoted by *Middle East Economic Digest* on 17th December: 'It shows the good intentions of both sides. Such meetings are a good way to resolve any problems as well as to discuss new areas of co-operation.'

Relations suffered a setback in 1980 when Paris joined the United States in accusing Libya of complicity in the uprising in the southern Tunisian mining town of Gafsa, and provocatively sent warships and military supplies to Tunisia. The French moves prompted angry demonstrations in Libya, and protesters sacked the French embassy and consulate in the Jamahiriya.

There have since been disagreements stemming from French interference in Chad, and last year there was friction over Libyan suspicions that Paris had played a role in the decision of former French colonies in Africa to boycott the OAU summit in Tripoli, depriving it of a quorum.

In his country-wide address to the Libyan people in December, however, in which he reviewed the issues to be debated by the Basic People's Congresses, Muammer Qadhafi revealed that the Jamahiriya had accepted French apologies and assurances over the Tripoli summit, and declared that French-Libyan relations had returned to normal (see page 9 for a full report of the Libyan leader's address).

Closer political relations between Tripoli and Paris are likely to boost trade ties. In 1981 French exports to Libya totalled \$827 million, but the figure for the first nine months of last year is reportedly down by some thirty per cent compared with 1981.

The French ambassador in Tripoli, M Graeff, appointed last May following a two year period during which France had no ambassador in the Jamahiriya, is responsible for a community of about 2,700 expatriate French citizens. There are about 1,200 Libyan students in France.

Seminar on Ottoman-Arab relations

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya in December hosted a special seminar on the history of Arab relations with Turkey. Papers presented covered a wide range of topics, including Ottoman administration in the Arab countries and its impact on Arab-Ottoman relations; taxation in Libya; production, trade and taxation in Basra in the sixteenth century; Turkish-Syrian relations in the Feisal era of 1918-1920; and the contribution of Arab thought to the development of Ottoman culture, 1839-1922.

Islamic Call Council marks Prophet's birth

TO MARK the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad on 27th December (equivalent to 12th Rabi al Awwal in the Islamic calendar), the Tripoli-based International Islamic Call Council convened a special symposium on the life of Muhammad.

Last August, the Jamahiriya initiated and hosted the Second Islamic Call Conference, at which Muslim individuals and organisations from throughout the world discussed ways of co-ordinating their response to the major challenges of Islam. Amongst the resolutions was a decision to set up a 36-member Islamic Call Council to act as an executive committee for the conference.

At December's seminar on the Prophet's life, the new body also discussed a range of issues stem-



Bullet-ridden bodies of refugees massacred at Maseru.

ming from the resolutions of the Islamic Call Conference, and one of the key proposals in a communique issued on 25th December, at the end of the meeting, was a call for the formation of a League of Islamic People that would function through Islamic People's Congresses, independently of governments or other established institutions.

The proposal came in response to a call by Muammer Qadhafi in his address to the August conference for the establishment of a new political league for all Muslims, to replace the Saudi-Arabian-dominated Islamic World League.

Trade talks with Bulgaria

A HIGH-ranking delegation of Bulgarian officials, headed by Mr Kiril Zarev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and including Mr Khristo Khristov, Minister of Foreign Trade, visited the Jamahiriya in December for talks aimed at bolstering trade ties between the two countries. Amongst the Libyan officials to confer with the visiting delegation were Mr Jadallah Azouz Talhi, Secretary of the General People's Committee, and Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jaber, Commander in Chief of the Libyan Arab armed forces.

Bulgaria is already an important trading partner of the Jamahiriya, and Mr Zarev disclosed that agreement had been reached to expand co-operation further, and particularly in the fields of trade and industrial and agricultural development.

ANC anniversary marked

THE AFRICAN National Congress, which is fighting for the liberation of South Africa from apartheid, on 16th December celebrated the 21st anniversary of its first resistance operation. In a special review to mark the occasion, the ANC condemned the continuing crimes of the Pretoria regime, both against the South African people and the neighbouring front line countries, and urged the international community to bolster its support for the liberation struggle.

To mark the anniversary, Dr Ali Abdesalam Treiki, the Jamahiriya's Permanent Representative at the United Nations and current Chairman of the African group at the world body, delivered a speech to the General Assembly in which he reaffirmed the support of the African group for the armed struggle of the South African and Namibian peoples. The Libyan envoy strongly

criticised the western powers, led by the United States, for their unlimited backing for the racist regime, which encouraged Pretoria's repeated terrorist outrages against innocent civilians.

On 17th December the Jamahiriya news agency JANA disclosed that Dr Treiki had requested an emergency session of the General Assembly to discuss the recent South African raid on ANC members in the Lesotho capital Maseru, in which 37 people, including women and children, were killed.

JANA added that the Libyan envoy had discussed the assault during a meeting in New York with the Lesotho Foreign Minister, who thanked the Libyan people for their pledge of full support at the time of the South African aggression.

Ancient Arab coins discovered

A COLLECTION of rare Arab coins was recently discovered in the Libyan town of Kakalla, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA announced on 5th January. The coins, the oldest so far unearthed in Libya, date back to the earliest period of Arab currency.

The oldest coin discovered is dated the Islamic year 93 AH (after Hijra), and was minted in the Iraqi town of Wasit. Another coin, minted in Sabour, is dated 98 AH. Two others, also minted at Wasit, are dated 121 AH, while one minted at the Tunisian town of Qairouan is dated 135 AH. The hoard included two coins dated 151 AH, one dated 154 AH and three dated 155 AH, all minted in Abbasiyya.

One curiosity was a silver coin minted in Basra and dated 49 AH. The Jamahiriya's Antiquities Directorate has concluded that there must have been a mistake in stamping the date, because scholars are agreed that no Arab coins were minted prior to 76 AH.

Unionist agreement with democratic Yemen

A VISIT to the Jamahiriya by a high ranking official from Democratic Yemen ended on 14th December with the conclusion of an accord that should bolster the unionist programme agreed by the two countries in 1981. The new agreement calls for co-ordinated policies on issues affecting the independence of the Arab homeland, and provides for a series of joint meetings between Democratic Yemen's local people's councils and the Jamahiriya's ►



Polisario celebrates its fifth anniversary.

people's congresses and committees and professional and trades congresses.

The accord was initiated by Mr Ali Balghair, Assistant Secretary General of the Libyan General People's Congress, and by Mr Suleiman Nasser Mohamed, Head of Yemen's Higher Committee for the People's Defence, and a member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party.

In July 1981 the two countries agreed to hold joint meetings between the Aden cabinet and the Libyan General Popular Committee, and between the Jamahiriya's General People's Congress and Yemen's Supreme People's Council. The Jamahiriya is engaged in a series of initiatives, with Algeria, Syria and Tunisia, as well as south Yemen, aimed at agreeing common policies as an essential step towards meaningful unity.

Cultural centre opens in Melbourne

A LIBYAN Arab cultural centre was opened in the Australian city of Melbourne in December, in a ceremony attended by the Ministers of Works and Training of Victoria Province and by the Secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in the Australian capital Canberra.

In his speech, the people's bureau secretary expressed the hope that the new centre, which includes a library, a reading room and a lecture hall, would act as a link between the peoples of Australia and the Jamahiriya.

Australia has a small, but active, Arab community, and on 29th December the Jamahiriya news agency JANA announced that the Melbourne basic people's congress, the forum at which community issues are debated, had sent a message to Muammer Qadhafi affirming their support for the principles of the Al Fateh Revolution.

The Libyan Jamahiriya has a long-standing programme to foster international understanding through the establishment of cultural centres abroad. Initially, efforts were concentrated in those African countries with large Muslim communities, but more recently efforts have also been directed to other countries. In October it was announced that an Islamic centre was to open in the Maltese capital Valetta, and last August an Islamic centre was opened in the western Canadian city of Edmonton, boasting a mosque, a conference hall and a sports complex.

Fifth anniversary of Arab People's Congress

LAST YEAR'S fourth session of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress (APC) was held in Tripoli from 14th to 19th December, with discussions centring on the implications for the Arab nation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The opening session, addressed by APC Secretary General Omar al Hamidi, coincided

with the fifth anniversary of the body's inauguration.

The APC was established as a forum for Arab non-governmental organisations and individuals committed to Arab nationalism, non-alignment and the liberation of Palestine.

In his address, Mr al Hamidi reviewed Arab priorities for the coming year, stressing the need for constructive self-criticism in evaluating the Arab performance in confronting the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. He also emphasised that regional liberation movements should not pursue their individual struggles in isolation either from each other or from the broader Arab nationalist cause.

SADR reaffirms OAU membership

THE SAHARAN Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), proclaimed by the Polisario liberation movement which is fighting the Moroccan occupation of the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara, has affirmed its full membership of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and declared that it will play a full role in all future summits of the African body.

The SADR was admitted to OAU membership last February, but western-backed countries used the issue as a pretext to boycott the OAU summit in Tripoli last August, depriving it of a quorum. In a major concession to African unity, the SADR subsequently announced that it would 'temporarily and voluntarily' suspend its participation in

the summit to allow it to go ahead. But western-backed regimes instead seized on the question of Chad's representation as a pretext to boycott November's reconvened summit. Shortly after, OAU Chairman-designate Muammer Qadhafi declared that he no longer considered the SADR to be bound by its agreement on attendance at the summit.

Mr Ibrahim Hakim, SADR Foreign Minister, announced on 20th December that his country was now committed to full attendance at any future OAU summit, and added that responsibility for last year's failure to convene the 19th OAU summit must be placed squarely with the United States and its client regime in Morocco. Their aim, he explained, was to 'destroy the OAU' to ease the way for the colonialist subjugation of the continent.

The Libyan Jamahiriya has consistently supported the Polisario liberation struggle, and the close ties between the Libyan and Sahrawi peoples were underlined in December when Tripoli hosted a visit by Mr Mohammad Bin Abdul Aziz, Polisario Secretary General and President of the SADR, and Mr Mohammad Al Amin, Minister of Education and a member of Polisario's revolutionary command council. During their visit, the two officials reiterated the SADR's conviction that the efforts to convene the 19th OAU summit had been sabotaged by western imperialist countries intent on thwarting the progress of African unity. They pointed in particular to the Rabat regime, saying that King Hassan's lack of concern for African independence and his role as a puppet of external powers were clear from the US military bases being established on Moroccan territory.



From defence to divorce:

Vigorous debates throughout Libya

THE BASIC People's Congresses in the Jamahiriya continued their discussions into January on the agenda of the General People's Congress. This run-up to the annual meeting of the GPC (extraordinary meetings are sometimes convened at other times of the year) is the period in which social, political and economic issues concerning the administration of the Jamahiriya and its international relations are the subject of vigorous debate in communities throughout the country. Under the *jamahiri* political system of direct people's democracy, the Basic People's Congresses provide the decentralised legislature of the Jamahiriya. All citizens are entitled to attend the meetings held in their locality, and it is the decisions of these BPCs which finally establish a national consensus on which Libyan policy is established.

Because the BPCs are open to all citizens, their meetings are restricted to times outside normal working hours so that no barriers are created to hinder attendance. Normally the BPCs complete their work early enough for the General People's Congress (GPC) to hold its meeting in Tripoli during the first week of January. This year, however, discussions have continued into the New Year.

The country's revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi has made a series of speeches during recent weeks, urging the maximum participation in the BPCs, and dealing with some of the issues involved in reaching a conclusion to the discussions.

On the international scene, one of the most important issues now under discussion is the Jamahiriya's stance towards the Arab

THROUGHOUT THE Libyan Jamahiriya, in villages and cities, citizens are debating the major issues confronting the country. Louis Eaks has been following some of the topics under review, and the comments of the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi. Alex Mitchell of the daily News Line provides an inset report from Tripoli.

states, in particular over the Arab position towards the Zionist occupation of Palestine and southern Lebanon, and the increasing influence of the United States in the region. Libya has vigorously opposed the trend towards a settlement with Israel, and boycotted the Fez Arab summit at which the Saudi peace plan was accepted as the basis for Arab initiatives to resolve the Palestine question.

However, on 5th January JANA, the Jamahiriya News Agency, reported the Libyan leader's comments on a memorandum of the revolutionary programme regarding neutrality. The issue, he said, was 'very important'. The BPCs had to consider 'the priorities of confrontation with enemies of the Arab nation' which he said should be 'put into perspective'.

Muammer Qadhafi stressed 'the main enemy of the Arab nation, at this stage and for this generation, is so-called Israel'. He continued, 'If the BPCs resolve to confront the Zionist enemy, this will therefore call on us to co-operate with other Arab countries, in spite of all contradiction between us and them at this stage.'

The Libyan leader added, 'I personally do not see any utility in settling with reaction. The guardians of Israel are more dangerous than Israel itself. Whatever it may offer, Arab reaction cannot realise anything useful. Arab reactionaries are being clearly and totally utilised to serve American and Israeli interests. It is they who are responsible for undermining the capabilities of the Arab nation.'

Free choice

Nevertheless, Qadhafi stressed that 'the matter is in the hands of the free Libyan people, who are capable of taking the appropriate decisions and specifying the priorities in confronting the enemies of the Arab nation'. However, he went on to say: 'If the BPCs see any utility in joining forces with Arab regimes for mobilisation and confronting the enemy, then all other considerations should be dropped and contradictions between us and these regimes should be disregarded.'

In the same speech, Muammer Qadhafi also bitterly condemned the current negotiations between the Lebanese government and the Zionist regime (see inset box).

The Libyan leader's comments on the



Social, political and economic issues have been debated vigorously in the BPCs.

Lebanon and Libyan-Arab relations came against the background of an earlier radio and television broadcast in which he stressed the need 'to break the psychological barrier of Arab weakness and confront the dangers facing us'. Libya should take the lead, Qadhafi urged. 'Israel has limited resources, and is dependent on the US for its daily sustenance, in contrast to the Arabs once they take decisive action,' he declared.

Meanwhile, the Libyan leader has said that he cannot see any improvement in relations between Tripoli and Washington, stressing that Washington's belligerency towards the Jamahiriya provided no grounds for optimism that a rapprochement could occur. 'The USA is arrogant,' he told viewers, adding that Washington 'did not wish to establish any relations with Libya because Libya refuses to kneel to America'. The Jamahiriya, he said would not change its commitment to the fundamental and revolutionary changes which it believes are essential to the creation of a more just and equitable world. Libya would remain a 'revolutionary country adhering to revolutionary conduct and the cause of peace and freedom,' he said.

However, on the subject of Franco-Libyan relations the Libyan leader urged conciliation between Paris and Tripoli, and to set aside the tensions created between the two

countries over France's alleged conduct surrounding the planned OAU summit in Tripoli last year. The dispute should be a matter of the past, he explained. Qadhafi disclosed, 'France has twice apologised to the Jamahiriya and denied influencing any African country. On the contrary, she claimed to have encouraged some African countries to take part in the summit, but the orders from America and money from some Arab countries influenced those countries to boycott the conference.'

He added, 'As long as France has apologised, politically and diplomatically, we accept her apology and consider her not guilty. France has shown her readiness to establish good relations with Libya. This is, of course, a new stand.'

Domestic issues before the BPCs have to some extent also reflected the Jamahiriya's stand on the threats posed to the Arab homeland by the United States and Zionism. The need for greater self-sufficiency in food and manufacturing, mobilisation of the Libyan people, and some sacrifices of luxury goods to allow adequate financing of Arab mobilisation have been raised in BPC discussions and by the Libyan leader. He called for the Libyan people to draw up a programme which would provide for 'comprehensive mobilisation' and achieve a 'satisfactory food programme'.

Shameful negotiations an insult to Arab nation

FIERCE CRITICISM of the current negotiations between Israel and Lebanon has come from the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi. His remarks came during comments on the discussions taking place in the Basic People's Congresses reported by the Jamahiriya News Agency, JANA, on 5th January.

He condemned the negotiations as 'shameful' and 'an insult to the Arab nation'.

'Lebanon is the second country following Egypt that has held direct talks with the Israelis,' he pointed out. 'These nego-

tiations come as a result of the Zionist occupation of Lebanon' rather than an independent decision by the Beirut government, the Libyan leader said.

He warned, 'The Israelis are seeking to remove Lebanon from the Arab fold. They are calling on Lebanon to end the state of war, capitulate, sign a peace treaty and open up the country to Israeli forces.' Qadhafi drew attention to the parallels between Israel's demands from the Lebanese and those secured in negotiations with Egypt.

'If the Zionists succeed in imposing their conditions and realising their goals

through these negotiations,' he added, 'then they will turn their attention to Syria, entering the battle within and imposing the same conditions.'

The Libyan leader said the conflict with the Zionists was a struggle for power in the region. He went on: 'The Zionist enemy has mobilised all its energy and capabilities to impose hegemony and to overrun and occupy. Therefore, we should also confront this danger by total mobilisation. This mobilisation would require general sacrifices and belittling to counter the enemy, otherwise our existence will have no meaning.'

Imports

Qadhafi urged greater efforts to reduce the Jamahiriya's imports of manufactured and other goods, and to replace them with locally produced items. Moreover, he called on the Libyan people to make greater use of Arab expertise in the Jamahiriya's development projects.

To contribute towards the development of the Jamahiriya's industrial base, the Libyan leader suggested that the BPCs should consider a new approach which would strengthen the country's balance of payments by insisting that certain products should be manufactured in the Jamahiriya even if some of the components had to be imported. This would strengthen the moves which have been underway since the Al Fateh Revolution in 1969 to diversify the country's economy away from its oil orientated economy through the development of industries which serve the country's development and consumer needs, thus cutting the Jamahiriya's import bill. Elaborating, Qadhafi gave this example: 'When we decide to import cars and equipment and spare parts, we should mention that 50 per cent of such equipment should have been imported and the rest manufactured here, in order to build our economic base.'

Moreover, the Jamahiriya should give preference to trade with the Arab homeland over

other countries, Qadhafi suggested as a further means of strengthening Arab self-reliance. He proposed that Arab skills and expertise should be given priority in contracts for development projects in the Jamahiriya. 'The money spent on these projects should go to our Arab brothers rather than foreign countries,' he argued.

In the sphere of domestic policy, the Libyan leader also suggested an expansion in the Jamahiriya's housing programme, and he called for house prices to be kept in check. Rising prices, he pointed out, nullified the benefits of the low-cost loans available in Libya to housebuilders and purchasers.

Fair deal

Employment opportunities for the disabled should also be expanded, Muammer Qadhafi proposed, reflecting his long-standing commitment to ensuring a fair deal for the country's disabled citizens.

These and the many other issues now being discussed by the Basic People's Congresses could only be resolved through the widest possible participation by the country's citizens, the Libyan leader has stressed in a number of his broadcasts and speeches. Democracy could only function if everyone came forward to express their opinions rather than to leave the public discussion to political activists, has been the message from Muammer Qadhafi on several occasions.

His comments for greater involvement were made despite reports that the BPCs have been marked by higher than normal attendance this year. On 7th January JANA's despatch from Tripoli reported the Libyan leader as saying that he had noticed that some members of the BPCs were frightened to express their views. Everybody, he said, should be urged to make a decision and defend it without fear of hesitation.

'He who has an idea should not abort it before the masses discuss it,' Qadhafi was reported to have said. 'Every speaker should speak confidently because his view might be adopted by the rest of the congress.' He said that a view expressed by a congress member might sometimes provoke others and challenge those 'who sit at home like veiled women'.

Veiled women

In an earlier comment on participation in the BPCs, Qadhafi stressed, 'The urgent subjects on the agenda make it imperative for every citizen to attend the congresses and express their opinions on matters which affect them directly.' He pointed out that under the *jamahiri*, 'there are no representatives to speak on their behalf if they do not attend'.

Having referred to 'veiled women', the Libyan leader took the opportunity to expand his views on the status of women in the Jamahiriya and Muslim society. 'There should not be veiled women,' he declared. 'This is no disobedience to religion nor to husbands. On the contrary, it is an expression of their own humanity.'

JANA reported, 'The Revolution's leader

Libya televises direct democracy

EACH DAY between 11am and one o'clock in the afternoon the shops and offices all over Libya close down for the day.

People scramble home to have lunch and then, at 3.30, head for their local meeting place. For these are the crucial days when the Basic Popular Congresses are holding their discussions.

One television channel is devoted almost exclusively to 'live' broadcasts of the local city, town and village meetings. It is compulsive viewing. Go into any home and the whole family is riveted to the television as speakers of all ages give vent to their opinions on the country's policies.

The agenda for the Basic People's Congresses is as comprehensive as you can imagine. It covers every aspect of Libya's economic, political and social life as well as foreign relations, defence and oil.

The idea is that everyone can have his or her say. The function of the Basic Congresses is spelled out in Colonel Qadhafi's Green Book Part One which deals with the 'Solution of the Problem of Democracy'.

The book proclaims: 'Popular congresses are the only means to achieve popular democracy. Any system of government other than popular congresses is undemocratic.'

'The people's authority has only one face and it can be realised by only one method, namely, popular congresses. No democracy without popular congresses and committees everywhere.'

Since their inception five years ago, the basic congresses have become occasions when the local population reckon accounts with officialdom. They tend to be very lively affairs.

By temperament the Libyans are fiercely independent, and given the opportunity to speak his or her mind, there is no lack of argument.

This year's congresses have been better attended than ever before, much to the pleasure of Qadhafi who has spearheaded the campaign for the introduction of the concept of the Jamahiriya ('state of the masses').

Nor is he bothered that the meetings have often developed into ferocious criticism of the failures and inadequacies of local committees.

Telethon

He is an avid viewer of the democratic

telethon. The transmission has been organised in such a way that he can speak directly to the basic congresses while they are meeting.

Earlier this week, for example, the secretary of one committee rather abruptly tried to silence one of his critics and called for a fresh speaker. Within seconds Qadhafi was on the screen all over Libya (and on a TV monitor at the congress itself) asking the speaker to be recalled to the microphone so that his whole speech could be heard. 'Otherwise it is not democracy,' Qadhafi said.

The congresses have brought to the surface every conceivable problem and difficulty facing the Libyan workers and farmers. The most common complaint is that things aren't being done fast enough.

People want roads, telephones, schools, housing development. They complain about shortages in the shops and the wastage of money.

In one town the farmers were up in arms about the import of olive oil from Tunisia and tomatoes from Italy. 'Give us the equipment and we can make our own cooking oil and become self-sufficient,' one old farmer said. 'And give us the financial support and we can grow all the tomatoes that the revolution needs.'

Some of the congresses are limited to women only. At one of these meetings there was a spirited discussion on divorce and marriage. They voted unanimously against polygamy and adopted proposals for new divorce legislation.

Under the existing system a woman often leaves the marriage home to go and live with her parents after a divorce. The new measures mean that the husband has to quit the home and provide for the upkeep of the wife and her children until they reach the age of 18.

Major controversies surround the 1983 budget and the next stages in Libya's massive development programme.

The secretary of one congress told News Line, 'Our policy is not to hide anything. We speak openly about all the problems facing the people and the struggles that are in front.'

'Do you think that they can do this in Baghdad or Riyadh or Cairo?'

■ This article by Alex Mitchell in Tripoli appears courtesy of the British daily newspaper News Line, which published the report on 14th January.



Egyptian soldiers unload the dead from a Red Cross launch which ferried the corpses across the Red Sea.

Massacre in the sky

TEN YEARS ago this month, the Zionist state perpetrated one of the most heinous crimes in its grim litany of atrocities against the Arab people, when its warplanes shot down a Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing 727 civilian airliner over the Sinai desert. Of the 113 passengers and crew, only six survived.

The ill-fated flight LN 114 was bound for Cairo from Tripoli, via Benghazi, on 21st February 1973. A faulty compass caused the Boeing to stray over the Sinai Peninsula — at the time still under Israeli occupation. The jet — clearly marked as a civil airliner — was intercepted by US-supplied Zionist Phantom fighters, which fired into the wings, forcing it down. The plane exploded on impact, as the pilot vainly attempted an emergency landing.

The dead comprised 45 Libyans, 39 Egyptians, four Syrians and four Jordanians, three Lebanese, two Palestinians, one Sudanese, two Britons, one German and one American. Also killed were the four-person French crew, who were on secondment to LAA from Air France.

Journalists who visited the wreckage reported harrowing scenes. James Thurman,

THIS MONTH, the Jamahiriya mourns the 107 innocent civilians killed ten years ago when a Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing 727 was blasted out of the sky by Israeli warplanes over the Sinai desert. Ali Aziz recalls the incident and examines the international response.

writing in the *Daily Mail* on 23rd February, spoke of the 'usual pathetic belongings that are associated with an air crash. There were children's toys, like two small robins perched on a branch, a baby's shoe, a string of beads pathetically hanging from a splintered piece of metal and on the only recognisable piece of fuselage'.

He added: 'I collected some strips of paper, an embarkation card, printed in Benghazi, an airmail letter written in Arabic, and the visiting card of the pilot, Captain Jaques Bourges, as it blew across the desert.'

In *The Times* the same day, Philip Jacobson said: 'From the air, you see a long trail of debris ending in the twisted and scorched cockpit. The sand is covered with the usual tragic remnants of an air crash: shoes, clothing, hand-bags, children's toys and other personal possessions.'

'Yards of film from a cine camera were drifting across the sand in the stiff breeze. Some of it showed family groups filmed in what appeared to be an airport departure lounge. In the cockpit, the landing procedures manual for Middle East airports, written in French, was soaked in blood.'

Colin Bickler noted in the *Scotsman* that 'one of the papers being blown around the area proved to be a medical certificate, in the name of Hassona, indicating that at least one passenger was a partially paralysed wheelchair case'.

Pretext

The pretext for the atrocity most frequently cited by the Israelis was that they had been forced to take action because the Libyan plane was flying over sensitive military airfields in the Sinai. It was an absurd assertion, however, that a civilian Boeing 727 packed with passengers was engaged on espionage, but even more preposterous was another pretext offered by the Zionists — that they feared that the airliner was full of explosives and might be dive-bombed onto an Israeli city. In fact, the Israeli Phantom pilots themselves testified that they had flown close enough to the Boeing to see the pilot clearly. Presumably the passengers had been equally visible, and it would have been abundantly clear that a plane loaded with passengers represented no threat to the Zionist state.

The Zionists, appalled by the universal international condemnation of the atrocity, attempted to evade responsibility for their destruction of the Libyan airliner by accusing the pilot of having ignored repeated instructions from the Israeli fighters to land. But this assertion was given the lie when the Egyptian aviation authorities played back recordings of exchanges between the Libyan plane and the Cairo control tower: the pilot reported no such communication with the Zionist fighters.

If the pilot had misunderstood any instructions from the Israeli warplanes, however, that would hardly have amounted to a reasonable excuse to blast the civilian airliner out of the skies.

In any event, it was inconceivable that a pilot of Captain Bourges experience would have endangered the lives of his passengers by ignoring any such instructions from hostile warplanes. He had seventeen years' experience with Air France, and over 10,000 hours of flying time.

Hoodwinked

International opinion was not hoodwinked by Israel's tortured attempts to disclaim responsibility for the premeditated murder. On 23 February *The Times* said: 'On the evidence so far, it appears to be inconceivable that the Israelis could have had any doubt about the civilian identity of the airliner. They cannot claim that kind of inexperience which could confuse a military aircraft with a Boeing airliner. Moreover, if they were really monitoring its progress for fifteen minutes, they must by then have been able to see quite clearly that it contained no military threat.'

On 25th February the *Sunday Times* noted, perceptively, that the Israeli attitude was not out of character. 'There remains a basic assumption of which Israel and Zionists around the world have long been possessed, namely that for her cause the world must forgive everything. Elsewhere, rough codes of morality are recognised, in principle if by no means always in practice. Arabs, in particular, must always be ferociously condemned, and their legitimate interests in, for example, Palestinian refugees, disregarded. But whatever Israel does must be exonerated.'

The paper concluded by asking, 'How much Israeli aggression at the cost of any prospect of a Middle East peace, the West will continue to underwrite.'



Above: the remains of LN 114. Below: an Israeli soldier guards the wrecked fuselage.





Britons and Libyans march to US Embassy in 1982 to protest at US destabilisation campaign. Photo: News Line.

Reagan's economic war backfires

AS PART of its efforts to undermine the economic security of the Libyan people, the Reagan administration a year ago banned US workers from entering Libya, called on US personnel and firms in the Jamahiriya to leave, banned the import of Libyan oil, and prohibited the sale to Libya of oilfield equipment. All the signs are, however, that Reagan badly miscalculated. The Libyan economy has since gone from strength to strength, and it appears that far greater problems have been created for US companies and workers than for the Libyan people.

Reagan's punitive economic measures were imposed in response to wild and unsubstantiated allegations emanating from US intelligence circles claiming that the Jamahiriya had despatched 'hit squads' to assassinate the US President. But these allegations were merely a pretext. Ever since President Reagan took office in January 1981 the United States has pursued a vendetta against the Jamahiriya and its revolutionary leadership, designed to 'punish' Libya for its unswerving support for liberation movements fighting US-backed regimes in the Third World. The Reagan administration consistently labels such backing as 'support for international terrorism'. The lengths to which Reagan has been prepared to go to undermine the Libyan Jamahiriya's security was highlighted in August 1981, in the Gulf of Sirte incident when Sixth Fleet warplanes violated Libyan territorial waters and attacked Libyan military aircraft.

Reagan's call on American workers and companies to leave Libya, and the ban on travel to or through the Jamahiriya by holders

ONE YEAR ago the Reagan administration imposed a series of economic sanctions on the Jamahiriya, asserting that they were in retaliation for alleged Libyan support for 'international terrorism'. The real motive, however, was seen as an attempt to destabilise Libya's economy. In this special report, Robert Miller shows how Reagan's economic war has cost American firms dearly, while having only a minimal impact on the Libyan people.

of US passports, came in December 1981. Explaining the move, the then Secretary of State Alexander Haig asserted that the withdrawal was necessary 'to protect American lives should the situation deteriorate further', hinting that the US was preparing for another military aggression against the Jamahiriya. In March last year, Reagan turned the screw further, prohibiting US imports of Libyan oil, and banning the sale of oil and gas technology to the Jamahiriya. This time, the bland pretext offered was that the moves were in

retaliation for 'Libyan terrorism and subversion'.

The real target of the US measures was the Libyan oil industry, which provides the funds for the country's overall socio-economic development. Reagan mistakenly believed that most Americans in the Jamahiriya were working directly in the oil production sector, and that their withdrawal would leave the Jamahiriya helpless. In fact, only about 700 of the 1,500 US citizens working in Libya at the time were directly engaged in the oil sector. A further 200 worked for small oil service firms. The 600 others were dependents, teachers and employees of companies involved in non-oil sector activities. And the Americans working directly in the oilfields comprised only about seven per cent of the total of 10,000 people employed in the Libyan oil industry.

Quite apart from this, the Americans working in the Jamahiriya showed little inclination to leave, and those that bowed to Reagan's threats did so under protest. Only about one hundred were reported to have left in response to Reagan's call. The exodus hoped for by Washington did not materialise.

The Libyan Jamahiriya has moved to provide US citizens with a way of avoiding legal penalties for non-compliance with the ban on travel to Libya. The ban explicitly applies to the use of American passports for travel involving the Jamahiriya, but Libyan immigration officials now stamp entry visas onto separate pieces of paper, and, technically, the US citizens involved do not use their passports.

A key reason why Americans have for the most part ignored the restrictions on travel to

Libya is the rising unemployment in the United States. Reporting that Tripoli's Oil Companies' School — known to Libyans as the American School — was still operating despite Reagan's sanctions, the *Washington Post* on 10th December said that all the American staff members gave unemployment in the United States as a major reason why they had come to work in Libya. Asked by the paper's correspondent whether she felt disloyal, one of the teachers, Mrs Barbara Bishr, who is married to a Libyan, replied: 'No. I am making a much bigger contribution here than if I were home and unemployed. Is President Reagan going to find me another job?'

The extent of Reagan's failure to convince Americans to join his boycott of Libya was dramatically underlined by the *Washington Post*, which revealed that 'US citizens have been returning (to the Jamahiriya) in a small but steady stream'.

American companies have shown a similar reticence to pull out of Libya. The giant multinational Exxon oil company did wind up its activities in the Jamahiriya in 1981, and the Mobil corporation also announced its intention of quitting. But their decisions were widely seen as having been prompted more by falling profitability in circumstances of over-supply on the international oil market than by any desire to fall meekly into line with Reagan's plans. Almost all the other US firms engaged in the Jamahiriya have remained. Five US oil firms, in partnership with the Jamahiriya's Libyan National Oil Company, account for more than half Libya's total current oil output.

The ban on the sale of oil industry equipment, meanwhile, has been ineffectual. On 10th December the *Washington Post* said that the measure 'has had little effect because

the United States, in an effort to prevent American companies from losing business, has applied the ban only to the few products that Libya cannot buy elsewhere. They can often be obtained indirectly through Europe'.

The US has also been chary of depriving itself totally of Libyan oil. The ban on Libyan oil imports applies only to crude oil, and the Jamahiriya's oil still reaches the United States after being refined in Europe and the Caribbean.

Absurdity

When the US imposed its economic sanctions on Libya, the Reagan administration emphasised the crucial importance of other western industrialised countries taking similar measures, and a series of approaches were made to European governments in a bid to secure their co-operation. The Europeans, however, saw the absurdity of Reagan's claims about Libyan 'hit squads' and the Jamahiriya's role in 'international terrorism', and refused to toe the Reagan line. Predictably, the US efforts to destroy the Jamahiriya's economy have given a boost to the development of economic ties between Libya and Europe. Many of the jobs that became available with the departure of American workers have been filled by oilmen from Europe and other western countries. On 10th December the *Washington Post* confirmed that 'Most of the American managers and technicians have been replaced by Canadians or Europeans, who say the change has had little impact on Libya's oil industry'.

European firms have been quick to reap the benefits stemming from the US sanctions. Last June, for example, it was announced that Britain's Hudson Offshore Holdings, an important supplier of oil, gas

and water equipment, had opened an office in the Libyan capital, Tripoli. The company had been involved in the Jamahiriya for some time, but the decision to expand its presence in Tripoli was prompted by the opportunities created by the departure of Exxon and Mobil. A Hudson Offshore spokesman told *Middle East Economic Digest* on 24th June that the firm saw the Jamahiriya as an 'expanding market', and that the Americans' withdrawal 'has certainly left a big gap in the market'.

Contrary to the US President's expectations, the Libyan Jamahiriya's oil output has shown a consistent upward trend since the imposition of the American sanctions. In November 1981, production was averaging only 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) — a low figure, reflecting the world oil glut. But by June 1982 production was averaging 1.2 million b/d, and late last year the Nicosia-based *Middle East Economic Survey* revealed that output rose to 1.8 million b/d in early December, more than three times the level of a year before.

Recently published trade figures underline the losses incurred by the United States as the result of Reagan's confrontation politics. In the January-September period last year, US exports to Libya totalled a mere \$224.8 million, compared with \$610.1 million in the same period of 1980. US imports from the Jamahiriya fell from \$4.9 billion in the January-September period of 1981 to a trifling \$493.5 million last year.

Yet despite the overwhelming evidence that the US sanctions have failed to cripple the Jamahiriya's economy, and have merely hit US interests, the Reagan administration on 10th December last year extended for another twelve months its ban on travel to Libya by US citizens.

Boeing ban threatens US workers

THE EMBARGO on imports of Libyan crude oil, and the ban on travel by US citizens to the Jamahiriya have not been the only economic sanctions taken by the Reagan administration against Libya. Under US Export Administration Regulations, US firms are forbidden from supplying the Jamahiriya with a wide range of equipment deemed to have actual or potential military value. The regulations were imposed in early 1981 in retaliation for alleged Libyan involvement in 'international terrorism'.

These regulations, like the others imposed more recently, are backfiring badly against American firms. On 25th December, the International Herald Tribune disclosed that the Boeing Company, which is reeling under the impact of the US recession, has applied for a licence to export to Libya twelve civil airliners, including at least one 747, two or three new twin-engine 767s and as many as five of the smaller 737s. The order would be worth a total of \$600 million.

A Boeing spokesman was quoted as

saying that Libyan Arab Airlines 'has one of the highest growth rates in the world' and that Libyan officials had 'expressed their intent to order these aircraft to accommodate this growth'.

The company desperately needs the sale. Last year the Seattle-based firm laid off nearly 9,000 employees, and its earnings for the first nine months of 1982 fell 46 per cent to \$201 million from \$377 million in the same period of 1981.

Boeing is anxious, however, that Reagan will veto an export licence, and that the Libyans will then lose interest and opt instead for European Airbus planes. 'We know what the hell is going to happen in Libya,' a company official was quoted as saying. 'They like our equipment, but after a while they're going to buy from Airbus.'

The Reagan administration's restrictive practices, however, are also jeopardising the operations of Toulouse-based Airbus Industrie, angering the European aircraft manufacturers in the consortium. Libyan Arab Airlines has made a cash down-payment on a \$700

million order for six A300-B24 200 and four A310 wide-bodied commercial aircraft. But the planes have US General Electric engines, placing the aircraft within the scope of the US export regulations. Deliveries were to have started last June but the sale has been blocked by Washington.

On 25th December the International Herald Tribune disclosed that two completed Airbus jets were 'sitting outside the Airbus factory in Toulouse', and quoted a State Department official as admitting: 'The French are pretty upset about it.'

The obduracy of the Reagan administration means that there is now a good chance that US firms will be excluded altogether from the Libyan aircraft market. In November it was disclosed that the Airbus on order to Libyan Arab Airlines might be fitted with Rolls Royce RB 211 engines, to circumvent the American ban. A spokesman for the British firm told *Middle East Economic Digest* on 19th November: 'This is an opportunity for us to get on to the Airbus, and we are looking at it very seriously.'

Libyan Secretariat's Statement on "Deteriorating Oil Prices"
JANA in English 1846 gmt 17 Jan 83

Text of dispatch datelined Tripoli, 17th January:

The Oil Secretariat of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya issued a statement on the deteriorating oil prices in the world's market, pointing out that the Jamahiriya is so concerned about oil prices because it led and still leads the battle of oil prices for the interest of the peoples of the oil-producing countries from the viewpoint of unwavering and principled stand. As an outcome of this battle, the oil-producing countries were able to control and fix oil prices, marketing and shares given to the oil monopolies which used to explore, produce, market, fix prices and shares of profits for the country which owns the oil fields.

The Oil Secretariat would like to point out the following:

- 1 - The Jamahiriya has reduced oil production and put technical control not over each company but went beyond that to limit the production of each well separately. Such controls are endorsed by OPEC and not implemented by other oil countries.
- 2 - The worsening of the oil market is referred to the abs Production in other oil-producing countries is regulated according to capitalist countries. Some of these producing countries do not control their oil reserves and created what caused a damage in their oil market and enabled the capital stagnation in the world's oil market and enabled the capital to build large oil reserves to undermine the oil market.
- 3 - The Jamahiriya has repeatedly warned of that danger recent years and even before the current deteriorating state.
- 4 - The Jamahiriya has called and calls upon the OPEC with reference to historic production levels and reduce production in the world's oil market.



Saleh Najem

JANA's voice in Fleet Street

THE JAMAHIRIYA News Agency, JANA, is the largest Arab news agency in London, with a staff of over twenty, housed in the multi-storey International Press Centre, a stone's throw from the heart of the British newspaper industry in Fleet Street.

From early morning until late at night, shifts of journalists and translators man the bureau, feeding news to JANA's headquarters in the Libyan capital, and receiving material via Tripoli from correspondents around the world. The bureau has a hectic schedule, with all JANA's news items passed to London for translation from Arabic into English, after which they are filed back to Tripoli for transmission to the English speaking world; the Paris bureau fulfils a similar function handling translations into French.

Saleh Najem has been in London for two years, and comes from a background in the Jamahiriya's rapidly expanding media industry. He has worked at JANA headquarters in Tripoli, and spent time setting up Channel 2 Television for the Jamahiriya Broadcasting Corporation, which now provides the English language service for viewers to Libyan television.

Now in London, he sees his job as building a closer relationship with British journalists, some of whom he regrets are too inclined to mis-report or distort events. Pure malice on the part of British and international journalists offers little room for Mr Najem to remedy the problem, but where the issue is one of ignorance of Libyan affairs, he is determined to ensure that JANA is available seven days a week to respond to journalists' queries.

'With a single phrase, some journalists can

THE JAMAHIRIYA News Agency, JANA, is the largest Arab news agency in London. Louis Eaks visited their offices off Fleet Street and spoke to the Bureau's chief, Saleh Najem, about the work which the agency handles.

dismiss a whole civilisation and culture,' Mr Najem declares with regard to some of the distorted reports of Libyan affairs which appear in the British media. 'When a journalist seems more concerned with making insulting remarks than reporting the facts, you can only feel they are not worthy of the name journalist,' he says.

When he arrived in Britain just over two years ago, Mr Najem took the initiative to invite British journalists receiving JANA's daily bulletin to discuss with him how they believed the service could be improved, both in presentation and content.

At the same time, he has worked to build up direct personal contacts with British journalists, through such means as his regular involvement with the Press Club, with the result that he now receives frequent calls asking for information and comment. 'If necessary, when someone is looking for information or statistics, I am always ready to call Tripoli to obtain it for them if it is not available in the London Bureau,' he explains.

Meanwhile, the Bureau performs a variety of tasks — as a gatherer of news, and as a transmitter and disseminator of news. The early shift at JANA London deals with monitoring the London based and English language media, translating the main topics into Arabic and ensuring that it is transmitted to Tripoli early in the day.

At the same time, like any news agency bureau, the JANA office provides its own reports of events in the United Kingdom and developments on the international scene. Many events happening in London, for example, may receive little attention from the British media and news agencies, but are of importance to the Jamahiriya and the wider Arabic speaking world.

Besides reporting from Britain, the JANA bureau has the important task of reporting events and developments taking place inside the Jamahiriya to Britain. The London office provides a daily bulletin of news material selected from the main JANA transmissions. This is supplied free of charge to journalists and others, such as academic specialists in Arab affairs, in either Arabic or English. The English language bulletin is received by 270 persons each day, and about 100 Arabic language reports are despatched to the Arabic media based in London and to Arab students wishing to receive it.

There are occasions, of course, when the daily bulletin is inadequate to deal with the urgency to distribute an important press conference or development in the Jamahiriya. Then, the JANA bureau will adopt a different procedure, sending items direct to the newspapers, radio and television, along with the London based international news agencies, by telex.

Broader effort

JANA is part of a broader Third World effort to widen the interpretation of current events on an international level. It is one of a new generation of news agencies from the developing nations which have set themselves the task of breaking the monopoly in disseminating news which is held by the western news agencies such as Reuter, Associated Press, and UPI. These latter agencies stand accused, by such bodies as UNESCO, of distorting the news, not least by presenting Third World developments purely from the point of view of western interests rather than how a policy decision in Libya, for example, might be in the best interests of the Jamahiriya and its citizens.

Later this year the London bureau expects to be able to provide a new service when a radiophoto link with Tripoli will enable JANA to distribute news photographs with great speed.

Faced, like all Libyan institutions, with an attitude of hostility or indifference, based upon the misinformation campaigns against the Jamahiriya of the past decade, JANA has a credibility barrier to breach. The signs are that through the steady and undramatic work of the past few years, JANA is now winning greater recognition amongst British journalists, and that in turn can only be of value in promoting better Anglo-Libyan relations.

LAST SUMMER'S Israeli invasion of Lebanon shocked world opinion, but what happened was no different in essence or scale to the Zionists' onslaughts against the Palestinians and other Arabs in 1948, 1956 and 1967. On each occasion, Zionist forces launched unprovoked attacks with the specific aim of seizing Arab land and ousting the indigenous inhabitants to make way for foreign settlers. What was different in 1982, however, was that significant numbers of the world's press, and particularly television reporters, were at the receiving end, and recorded in detail the devastation wrought by the invaders. Zionist savagery is nothing new to the Arab nation, but many people, particularly in the west, were deeply disturbed by the daily slaughter from Lebanon shown on their television screens.

Also well documented by the press were the stated Israeli pretexts for the carnage — 'to destroy the PLO', 'to restore the authority of the Lebanese government', for example. It took a little time, but most sections of the press eventually grasped that the real purpose of the war was to 'rearrange' Lebanon to suit Israel. The aim was to set up a puppet Phalangist regime in Beirut that would sign a peace treaty with the Zionist state, and curb the military and political power of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

The media, however, have not yet fully grasped that the Lebanon invasion was merely a part of a grand strategy to secure Israeli domination over the entire region, and that in the coming years the Zionists can be expected to launch similar campaigns on other fronts. One of the more illuminating sections of Michael Jansen's *The Battle of Beirut* is her review of an article published last February in the World Zionist Organisation's Journal *Kivunim* (Directions). The article, by Oded Yinon, a former senior official in the Israeli foreign ministry, argues that Israel should act promptly to take advantage of divisions within the Arab homeland. 'We face opportunities for thoroughly transforming the situation, and this we must do in the coming decade,' declares Yinon.

Divide-and-rule

He goes on to advocate a classic divide-and-rule scheme, of which the part dealing with Lebanon has already been put into effect. The Egyptian Sinai Peninsula should be invaded again, he argues, adding that this would be easy since 'Egypt is already a corpse'. The Zionist state's principal political aim on its western front in the 1980s should be 'breaking Egypt down territorially into distinct geographical regions'. These should be 'a Christian Coptic state in Upper Egypt alongside a number of weaker states' for the Egyptian Muslims.

In Mr Yinon's recommended plan, Jordan would become a Palestinian mini-state. Israel, he says, should aim at 'the liquidation of Jordan under the present regime and the transfer of power to the Palestinian majority'. That majority, he adds, should be increased by 'accelerating the emigration of Palestinians from the West Bank to the East Bank'.

Divide and rule: Israel's plans for regional hegemony

ISRAEL'S INVASION of Lebanon was much better documented by the international media than the Zionists' previous expansionist wars. But the press failed to grasp that the invasion was only one phase in a long-term strategy designed to subject the Arab nation to Israeli domination by classic divide-and-rule methods. Dr Alan George reviews a new book which spells out the Zionists' objectives.

For Lebanon, Yinon proposes the establishment of five distinct provinces: a Christian-Maronite dominated area, a Muslim area, a Druze area, a region dominated by Syria, and another under the control of the Zionist protege 'Major' Sa'ad Haddad.

On the eastern front, he continues, Israel's main target should be 'the dissolution of Syria and Iraq into ethnically or religiously

unique areas such as in Lebanon'. Syria would be divided into a coastal 'Shiite Alawite state, a Sunni state in the Aleppo area, another Sunni state in Damascus, hostile to its northern neighbour, and the Druze will set up a state maybe in our (sic) Golan, and certainly in the Hauran and northern Jordan'.

He adds that Iraq is 'a definite candidate as one of Israel's targets', with 'the higher aim of breaking Iraq up into its denominations, a provincial division on ethnic-religious grounds' into 'three or more states around Basra, Baghdad and Mosul, and the Shiite areas in the south will separate from the Sunni and Kurdish north'. He concludes: 'The entire Arabian peninsula is a natural candidate for dissolution.'

Isolated

The tendency to see the invasion of Lebanon as an isolated event, however, was only one of the shortcomings of the media's handling of the war. Equally serious was its failure to grasp the fact that such plans as set out by Oded Yinon are central both to the right wing Zionists personified by Beigin and to the 'moderates' in the Israeli Labour Party. Certainly many Labour Party supporters opposed the war, but their concern centred on the damage done to Israel's international standing by the scale of the carnage and Beigin's inept handling of public relations. They were not so much opposed to the invasion in principle. It was, after all, during periods of Labour rule that the wars of 1948, 1956 and 1967 were launched. Despite the historical record, the press has tended to portray the Labour Zionists as essentially reasonable and humane. Such grandiose schemes as set out by Oded Yinon in a mainstream Zionist journal should both set alarm bells ringing throughout the Arab region and temper the optimism of westerners regarding the chances for a negotiated settlement of the Palestinian-Zionist conflict in the event of a change of government in Israel — itself an unlikely event given the overwhelming support enjoyed by Beigin amongst the Israeli public.

Describing her book as 'a study, and an indictment, of what the Israeli military juggernaut did to the inhabitants of southern Lebanon,' Michael Jansen covers the whole grim saga of the invasion, from the first air strikes on 4th June to the Beirut massacres in mid-September. All the major themes are dealt with — the casualties and destruction, the terror weapons, the role of Washington, the failure of the Arab regimes to rally in support of the Palestinians and Lebanese. Such thought-provoking sections as the review of the Oded scheme, however, are lamentably few, and the book for the most part covers exactly the same ground, and with no new interpretation, that has already been so well trodden by the newspapers from which the author quotes so heavily. It is an adequate handy reference work, but cannot be recommended as anything more.

□ *The Battle of Beirut* by Michael Jansen, Zed Press, London, 1982. Price: £4.50. (All royalties from the book will be donated to the Education Fund of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).)



Electricity generating supply is being expanded rapidly.

Electricity control centre tested

INITIAL TESTS have been conducted of the new electricity system control centre in the north eastern Libyan town of Tobruk, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA announced on 21st December. The centre, on which work started in 1979, allows the control of 10.5, 30 and 60 megavolt stations, and street lighting and siren systems in a wide area. JANA noted that the centre controls electricity stations in the Tobruk, Marsas, Kardaba, Jaghboub and Shaaba regions, and stations supplying electricity to Kaara, Kamboot, Bir Lahshab, Qasr al Jabi and Barda.

The rapid expansion of electricity generating capacity in north east Libya, meanwhile, was underlined late last year with the announcement that tender invitations were imminent for the third extension to the Benghazi North power and desalination plant. The work will cost at least \$675 million, and the turnkey contract will entail the installation of three 120 MW steam turbines and four 25,000 cubic metres per day desalination units, as well as the construction of buildings and workshops, sea water reservoirs and pumping stations and reservoirs in Benghazi and in a surrounding area of 45 kilometres radius.

The Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan allocates \$6.6 billion to the electricity sector, and provides for an increase in the country's generating capacity from 4,800 MW in 1980 to 9,400 MW in 1985.

Petrochemicals sector advances

THE ISSUE of tender documents on 20th December to eight international companies for major new ammonia and urea plants clearly indicates that last year's slow-down in the pace of industrial construction in the Jamahiriya, related to the world oil glut, is coming to an end. Potential contractors for the new plants, to be built at a \$1 billion fertiliser complex at Sirte, on the coast some 400 kilometres east of Tripoli, are Creusot-Loire and Heurtey Industries, both of France; an Italian-French concern linking Technipetrol and Technip; Italy's Snamprogetti; London-based M W Kellogg and Milan-based Foster Wheeler Italiana, both subsidiaries of US companies; West Germany's Uhde; and a Japanese venture of Toyo Engineering Corporation and Chiyoda Chemical Engineering & Construction Company.

The Jamahiriya's Heavy Industry Secretariat has appointed the British firm Davy McKee as management

consultants for the Sirte scheme, and the company will issue tender documents for the remaining process units and off-site packages for the complex in the coming year.

The Sirte complex is scheduled to enter operation at the end of 1987, and will comprise two 1,350 tonnes per day ammonia plants, one 1,740 tonnes per day urea unit, one 300 tonnes per day ammonium sulphate plant, one 500 tonnes per day sulphuric acid unit, and two 500 tonnes per day NPK (nitrogen phosphorus potassium) units. The complex will satisfy domestic demand for granular fertiliser, and provide ammonia and urea for export.

Work is meanwhile pressing ahead fast at the Ras Lanouf petrochemicals complex, on the coast 350 kilometres south west of Benghazi, which is the largest under construction in the Jamahiriya. At the heart of the complex is a 220,000 barrels per day oil refinery, being built at a cost of \$40 million by the Italian firm Saipem, and in November it was announced that the refinery should be completed in the first half of 1983. It was also disclosed late last year that work was almost complete on a twelve kilometre, 24 inch diameter oil pipeline to the refinery, laid at a cost of \$2.7 million.

Work is also well advanced on another key element in the Ras Lanouf complex — a \$60 million, 330,000 tonnes per annum ethylene plant being built by Italy's Belleli Industrie Meccaniche. The ethylene plant will supply a range of

petrochemicals units, including a polypropylene plant, a monoethylene glycol plant, and low and high density polyethylene units.

Most of the work at Ras Lanouf is being undertaken by Italian contractors, but British firms have won some important subsidiary contracts. It was recently disclosed that Britain's Frost Instruments has a \$1.3 million order to equip a medical centre and three laboratories for the ethylene plant. The equipment will arrive soon, and will be installed by a company team in March. The British firm Propafloor, meanwhile, is to supply flooring worth \$140,250 for a computer control room at the port being built for the Ras Lanouf complex at a cost of \$300 million by South Korea's Hyundai Engineering & Construction Company.

The Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan allocates \$12.9 billion for the establishment of new industrial projects — more than for any other sector. Of the total, \$8.9 billion is earmarked for heavy industrial plants, including petrochemicals schemes.

Bright trade prospects for Taiwan

THE JAMAHIRIYA'S Economy and Light Industry Secretariat has asked Taiwan's commercial office in Tripoli to recommend companies which could supply clothing, motorcycle, vehicle parts, electrical appliance and air-conditioner factories, the London weekly *Middle East Economic Digest* disclosed on 10th December. The journal added that the Libyan public company responsible for importing electrical goods has been instructed to open negotiations with Taiwanese firms and to send experts to Taiwan to study industrial development in the Asian country. The Taiwanese commercial office in Tripoli opened in March 1981.

British contracts for AGOCO

THE BRITISH firm Capper Neill International has begun work on a \$3 million contract to automate facilities at the Tobruk tank farm and oil terminal of the Jamahiriya's Arabian Gulf Oil Company. It is the firm's third order at the site since it won a \$15 million award in 1980 to extend storage capacity.

Capper Neill International hopes that work will be completed by March on a \$6 million turnkey contract to repair and refurbish existing tanks at Tobruk. The British firm's

workforce in Libya includes twenty Britons and fifty Indians.

In another award to Britain associated with AGOCO, the UK firm of Gent has an order from South Korea's Daewoo Corporation for a fire system for the new AGOCO building under construction in Benghazi. Gent has also won an order to supply 450 clocks for the city's Gar Younis University, and the two contracts are together worth \$66,000.

Benghazi gets a new supermarket

LIBYA'S LATEST popular supermarket was officially opened on 26th December, in the Agouriya neighbourhood of Benghazi, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA has announced, adding that the new market has departments selling goods as diverse as food, clothing and electrical appliances.

As part of its programme to abolish exploitative relationships in the economy, the Libyan Jamahiriya in 1981 began phasing out privately-owned shops, where citizens often had to pay inflated prices. In their place, a country-wide network of people's markets is being set up, where goods are sold at virtually cost price. Some three hundred of the new establishments have so far been opened.

Sea link to Italy

ON 16TH December the Italian state shipping line Tirrenia di Navigazione resumed a regular roll-on, roll-off service from Italian ports to the Libyan capital Tripoli. The 6,500 dwt *Staffetta Mediterranea* sails every eighteen days from Trieste and Bari and Genoa and Naples. The vessel serves the Sicilian port of Catania every nine days.

Farmers loaned LD 138 million

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya aims at food self-sufficiency by the turn of the century, and one of the ways in which agricultural production is being encouraged is through the extension of loans to farmers for the purchase of machinery, seeds and fertiliser. The scale of such assistance since the start of the Al Fateh Revolution in September 1969 was highlighted on 7th December, when the Jamahiriya news agency JANA disclosed that in the first thirteen years of the Revolution the Libyan Agricultural Bank extended 22,079 loans to farmers, with a total value of LD 138,264,000. JANA added that in the period of last year up to September, 2,118 loans were



A country-wide network of people's markets is being set up, like the one above in Benghazi.

agreed, totalling LD 10,727,000. Agricultural Bank loans are classified as seasonal, medium and long term, and repayment periods range from one to fifteen years, with a five-year grace period for the longer term loans.

Athens firm to map urban schemes

THE JAMAHIRIYA'S Utilities Secretariat has appointed Athens-based Dosiades Associated International Company to prepare maps and plans for urban schemes in several municipalities, mostly in the eastern part of the country. The West German firm Hansa Luftbild has a subcontract for aerial photography. Completion of the work is scheduled for mid-1984.

Dosiades has worked in Libya for about fifteen years. Its current projects include the supervision of the construction by three Italian firms of 27 warehouses throughout the Jamahiriya, and a four-year old regional planning contract covering the Tobruk and Derna municipalities, which are included in the area covered by the latest award.

Denmark will provide housing design

THE DANISH firm of Larsen & Nielson is providing design work, precast concrete technology and production assistance for the \$1.4 billion housing and classroom construction project for which South Korea's Daewoo Corporation has the main building contract. The scheme entails the construction of 5,000 homes in Tripoli and 7,000 in Benghazi, as well as 2,500 classrooms in eleven Libyan municipi-

palities. A precast concrete factory related to the project is nearing completion near Tripoli. Most of the homes will be in four storey blocks, but some will be in seven storey buildings. The Danish firm will send quality control staff and production assistants to the Jamahiriya.

Daewoo has also appointed the British consultant firm Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall & Partners to assist with design work and in laying public utilities to the housing sites.

A landmark in Daewoo's project came in December when work on the 5,000 homes in Tripoli was officially inaugurated with the laying of a foundation stone at a ceremony attended by Mr Jadallah Azouz Talhi, Secretary of the General People's Committee, Social Security Secretary Mr Ibrahim al Faqi Hassan and Education Secretary Abd al Hafiz Zulaytini. The new housing in the Libyan Jamahiriya will be distributed between the neighbourhoods of Janzour, Abu Haraida and Qurabully, and will be built in conjunction with a full range of new shopping, medical and educational facilities.

Ever since the early 1970s when the Al Fateh Revolution moved to secure fair oil prices from the western multinationals, Libya has been engaged in a major and sustained construction boom as the revolutionary authorities have sought both to expand the housing and welfare facilities available to Libyans and to assure the country's longer-term economic future by setting up new industrial and agricultural schemes to lessen Libya's dependence on the oil sector. As well as winning main construction contracts, foreign firms have also benefited from important ancillary awards. In December, for example, it was announced that Austria's Overhoff & Company has a \$3 million order to supply desalination and sewerage facilities for a building side camp that will accommodate up to 9,000 workers.

Minerals co-operation with Brazil

THE BRAZILIAN Minerals Research and Resources Company has begun an extensive prospecting programme in the Libyan Jamahiriya, including aerial surveys of the regions bordering Sudan, Chad and Niger. Brasilia radio has reported, adding that sixteen Libyans will be trained for the project in Rio de Janeiro.

Southern roads open

AN IMPORTANT landmark in the development of the Libyan Jamahiriya's road network came on 26th December when two major new roads were officially opened in the southern municipalities of Sebha and Shatta at a ceremony attended by Mr Jadallah Azouz Talhi, Secretary of the General People's Committee, and the Secretaries for Communications and Marine Transport, Housing and Utilities. One road, sixty kilometres in length, is an agricultural route in Al Shatti municipality, while the other stretches 360 kilometres from Sebha to the town of Waddan. The latter is a key section of the 650 kilometres route extending from Abu Grein, on the coast road near Misrata, south through the Sahara to Sebha. Work on the new roads, which cost \$41.8 million, has been under way since April 1980.

The Jamahiriya's 1981-85 development plan calls for the construction of 4,100 kilometres of new roads, and in addition the completion of 2,400 kilometres in projects carried over from the 1976-80 plan. Development spending on transport and communications as a whole in the 1981-85 period has been set at LD 2.1 billion, of which a large proportion is earmarked for road schemes.

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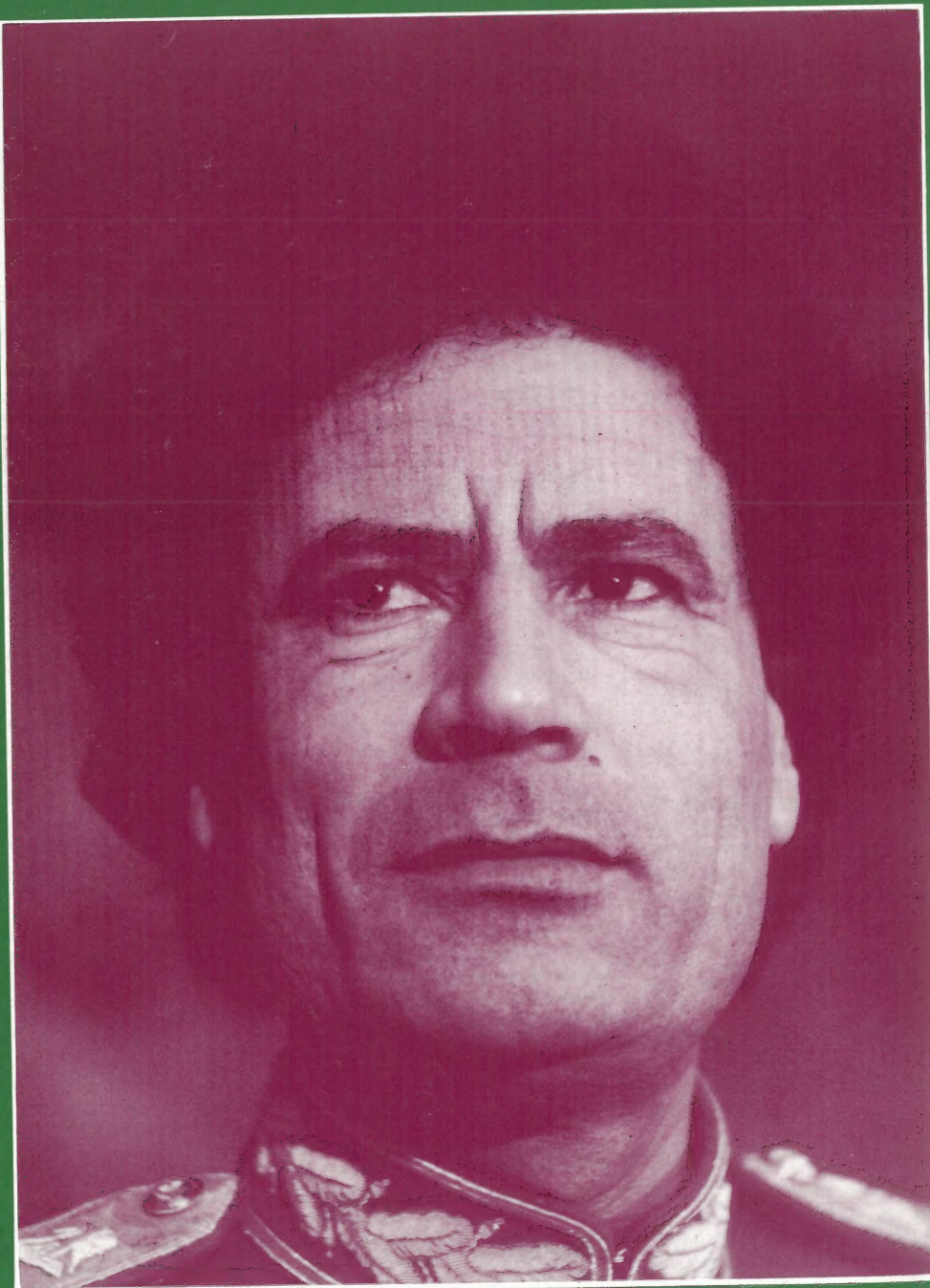
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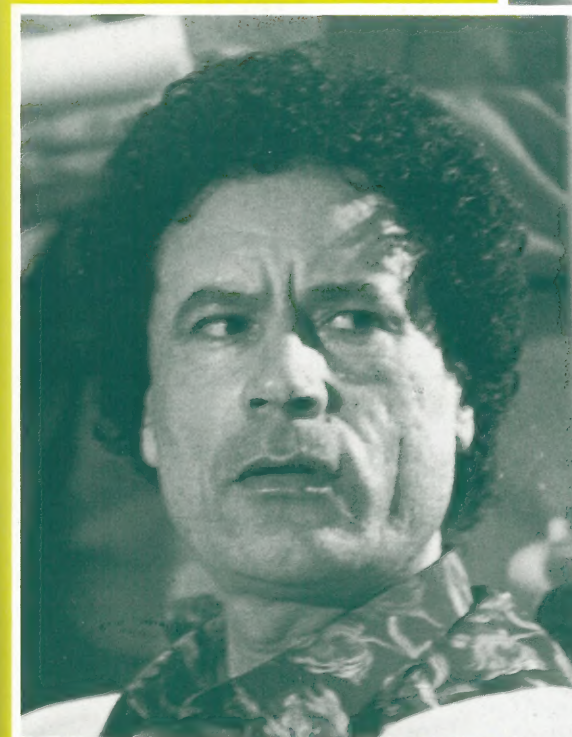
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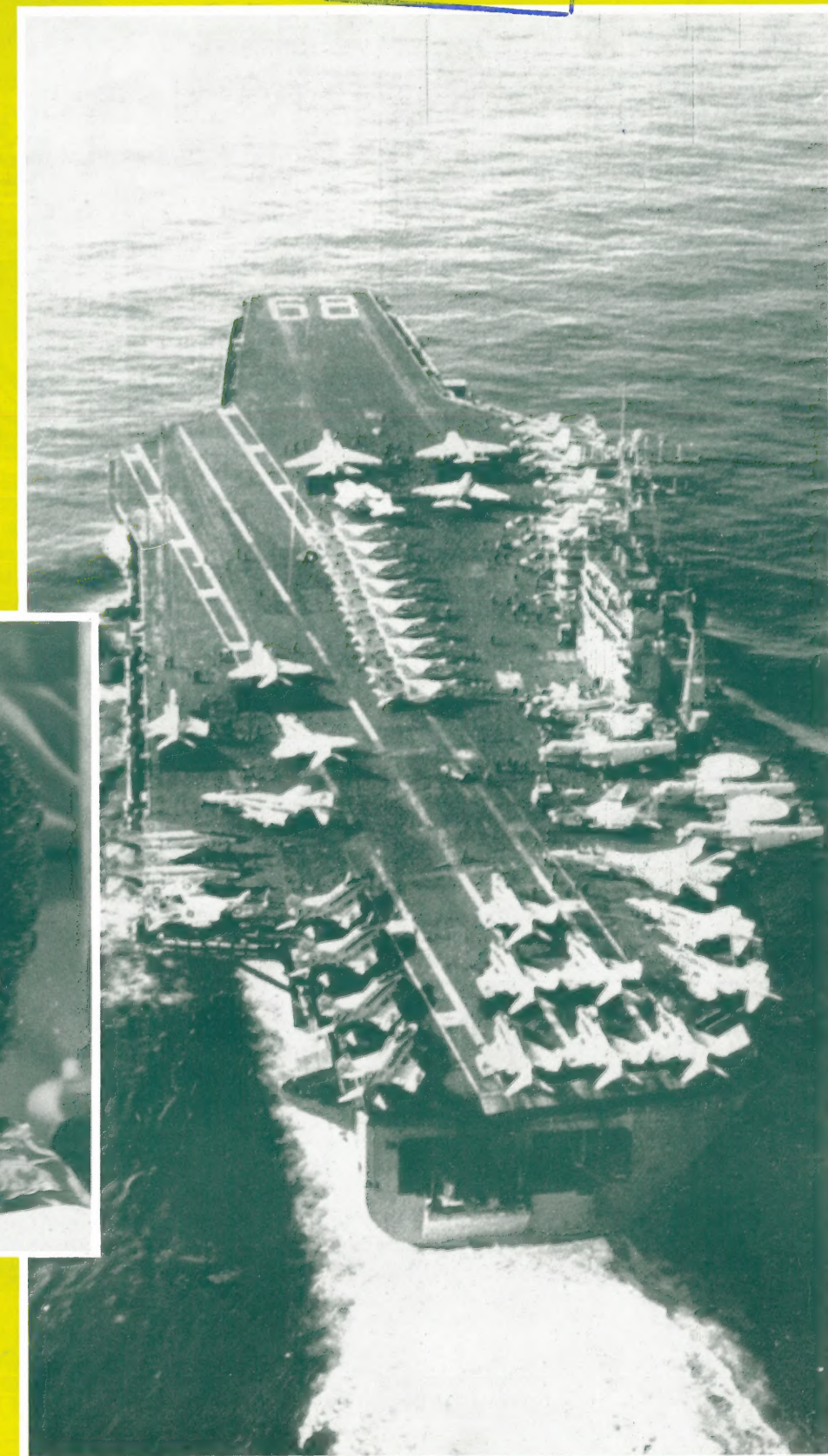
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